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ROMANIA

Marchais Arrives in Bucharest

Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, arrived in Bucharest on August 5. His visit comes at the personal invitation of Romanian party boss Nicolae Ceausescu, and his arrival may rule out the possibility that the Crimea Summit will open today. Ceausescu strongly stresses close ties with the West European Communist parties, and it is highly unlikely that Marchais would be invited to visit Romania while Ceausescu is out of the country. There is, of course, the remote and unlikely possibility that Ceausescu has not been invited to the Crimean gathering. He evidently was not asked to the first such meeting in August 1971.

Marchais was met in Bucharest by two of Ceausescu's closest advisers, party secretaries Gheorghe Pana and Stefan Andrei. The two will apparently escort him to Ceausescu's summer retreat on the Black Sea. Yesterday, Ceausescu received, at his vacation home, the personal envoy of King Hasan II of Morocco.

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BULGARIA

Speculating on Mladenov's Trip to Moscow

Foreign Minister Mladenov's surprise, one-day visit to Moscow last week has stirred the Sofia rumor mill. Accompanied by deputy foreign minister Chendov, who oversees both Balkan and Middle Eastern affairs, Mladenov left for Moscow on 31 July, the day following his return from a five-day visit to Syria. He met with Soviet first deputy foreign minister Kuznetsov before returning to Sofia on 1 August. Press reports indicate the talks proceeded in a warm and friendly atmosphere and centered on bilateral and "some international" topics.

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The US Embassy speculates that Mladenov may have been called on the carpet for Bulgaria's relatively positive attitude toward the new Greek government, and Chendov's participation in the talks buttresses this contention. Bulgaria promptly joined Romania and Yugoslavia--company the Bulgars do not usually keep in international affairs--in sending a message of congratulations to the new Greek government. This unusual grouping may, however, also reflect an overreaction by Mladenov to the fall of the Greek colonels. The Cyprus coup had made him vulnerable to criticism because he had touted his role in issuing a joint non-violence declaration with the Greek government a year ago.

Mladenov may also have made the trip to arrange details for Zhivkov's role at the expected Crimean conference that is rumored to begin this week. Additionally, Mladenov is the first Bulgarian party leader to visit Moscow since the personnel changes in early July in which he was promoted to candidate membership on the Politburo. He thus may have been reporting on Bulgarian party affairs in general.

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